

**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to be in better form for U.S. practice. An Abstract has been added on a separate sheet. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 21-41 will be pending.

Entry of the above amendments prior to examination of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0436.

Respectfully Submitted,  
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP



Gilberto M. Villacorta, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 34,038

Corinne M. Pouliquen  
Reg. No. 35,753

Hamilton Square  
600 Fourteenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005-2004  
Phone: (202) 220-1200  
Fax: (202) 220-1201  
Date: Jan 28, 2001